

Minutes
Meeting with Lancaster County Cities & Villages
Cornhusker Council, BSA-Outdoor Education Center
Tuesday, January 20, 2004
10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

In Attendance:

Lincoln/Lancaster County

Bob Workman, Commissioner
Larry Hudkins, Commissioner
Deb Schorr, Commissioner
Ray Stevens, Commissioner
Bernie Heier, Commissioner
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrator
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrator
Patricia Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Mike DeKalb, Lincoln/Lancaster Planning Department
Marvin Krout, Lincoln/Lancaster Planning Department
Doug Ahlberg, Lancaster County Emergency Management Director
Mike Merwick, Lincoln/Lancaster Building & Safety Director

Village of Panama

Don Onwiler, Village Board

City of Waverly

Bruce Forbes, City Councilman

Village of Firth

David Hobelman, Village Board
Paul TenHulzen, Village Board

Village of Bennet

Patricia Rule, Village Clerk

City of Hickman

Nancy Votta, City Clerk
David Dykmann, City Councilman
Jim Hranda, Mayor
Dick Ernest, City Councilman

Village of Roca

Jeff Janda, Village Board
Bob Green, Village Board

Village of Denton

Bill Edwards, Village Board

The meeting was called to order by Lancaster County Board Chairman Ray Stevens at 10:00 a.m.

(1). Planning and Land Use Issue (Acreage Studies Regarding Build Through, Cost of Services & Performance Based Standards)

Mike DeKalb distributed a hard copy of a Power Point presentation (Exhibit 1) that covers the three issues of build through, cost of services and performance based standards. DeKalb briefly went through the individual slides discussing Lincoln/Lancaster County's tier system of growth. A discussion of the transfer of development rights was also held and the issue of funding mechanisms to handle the cost of services issue. A proposed meeting on March 2nd of a Super-Common's including the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County and the Planning Commission was discussed to begin drafting regulations for acreage build through's. A brief discussion was held on zoning jurisdictions between Lancaster County and the various villages and cities.

Marv Kraut, Planning Director indicated their willingness to work with area villages and cities on their planning needs.

(2). Building Inspections for Villages

Mike Merwick, Lincoln/Lancaster Building & Safety Director gave a brief introduction of what he perceives the Building & Safety's role to be, emphasizing their commitment to safety issues in construction. Merwick discussed a survey his department had sent out to area villages and cities with regard to inspection services and said he had only received positive responses from Hickman, Panama, Firth, Denton and Bennett. Merwick outlined the various building codes that are used in Construction indicating that Lincoln/Lancaster is still utilizing the 2000 ICC Building Code but would be working toward implementation of the 2003 version. He recommended the adoption of the 2003 code if the villages and cities were going in that direction. Merwick indicated that at the present time inspection costs were running around \$1100.00 without impact fees. He indicated he would be willing to work up proposed costs for services for any city or village that may be interested in using his department for inspection services.

(3). Domestic Preparedness Update

Doug Ahlberg, Lancaster County Emergency Management Director updated the group on current and past federal funding allocations for emergency management issues. Ahlberg outlined various equipment purchases and training issues that affect area villages and cities. He stated that three of the six decontamination trailers would be located within the County and not within the City of Lincoln. Ahlberg complimented area deputy directors who have made this program successful, discussing their commitment to continuing training and their use of volunteers. A discussion on a

statewide radio/tower network was held and the desire of the state to have some local funding allocations placed under their control for this purpose.

(4). High Speed Internet Access

Lancaster County Commissioner Bob Workman discussed the issue of rural access to high speed internet services. Discussions between the participants was held on various options for rural communities such as the use of satellite, cable or Alltel services. Some villages indicated they were receiving free internet services for allowing antennas to be placed on their water towers.

(5). Village Information on County Website

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrator distributed various village and city printout of their web pages. Thorpe indicated that it appeared that some of the information on the web pages was likely not current and stressed the importance that if a web presence was being put out to the public the information needed to be updated. A brief discussion on the importance of web pages to local economic development was held. Thorpe indicated her willingness to assist the villages and cities with their web page information updates.

(6). Roundtable Discussion

Denton: Zoning and land use issues. Indicated that development was marginal at the present time in their area.

Firth: Discussed the new viaduct. Extended their appreciation to Deb Schorr for her work in this area. Indicated their internet needs are being met.

Waverly: Discussed the SCAN committee. Questioned whether any progress was being made on the east bypass issue.

Panama: Indicated their planning commission was up and running and they would be tackling updating their comprehensive plan adoption. Indicated they owned their own electrical system and had recently implemented at 5% rate increase on top of another 5% increase six months ago. Said they had not raised rates for then years. Panama indicated their need for a community center/fire barn. They are losing their lumber yard due to the death of the owner. Growth appears to be slow but steady which they like.

Roca: Indicated they are working to get a well site with low nitrates. Had some recent water main issues which will require replacement, hopefully this Spring. They have plans for area park improvements coming up as well.

Hickman: Stressed that they welcome growth and business expansion. Their current issue is transportation.

Bennett: Indicated pleasure with their new Board and its professionalism. Zoning and comprehensive plan issues are in the forefront right now. Working on updating infrastructure studies. Seeing rapid growth in their housing right now.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. by Lancaster County Board Chairman Ray Stevens.